

# Decision Record

EA Number: #OR-056-02-004

Title of Action: Oak Canyon Riparian Pasture Fence

Project Number: #73-7233

Tracking Number: H5BR

BLM Office: Prineville District

## **Decision:**

The BLM will build a riparian fence in Oak Canyon at two locations; approximately one mile of fence located on the east side of the drainage and crossing Oakbrook in one location on the northern boundary and ¼ mile of fence on the west side of the drainage. These fences will be placed in locations that tie topographic features together excluding cattle from Oakbrook and allowing for the prescribed grazing management. The location of the project is Township 3 South, Range 15 East, Sections 7 and 8. The decision to build the Oak Canyon riparian pasture fence is a means of keeping cattle from entering and degrading the riparian ecosystem further and allowing the area to return to its site potential. Oakbrook is a spawning tributary for summer steelhead, listed as a threatened species by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Fisheries.

## **Alternatives Considered:**

No action was the only other alternative considered. However, taking no-action would allow continued riparian degradation and have potential impacts on the listed summer steelhead.

## **Rationale for Decision:**

Implementation of the proposed action will prevent cattle from entering Oak Canyon and allow the riparian area to reach its site potential. Currently Oakbrook is not in a properly functioning condition (PFC) because of improper grazing management; with the aid of a fence PFC could be attained. The proposed action would be in compliance with the Lower Deschutes River Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (1993), Two Rivers Resource Management Plan, Record of decision, and Rangeland Program Summary (1986), PACFISH Environmental assessment (1994) and the Oak Canyon Allotment Evaluation (1996).

There were no comments received on the EA during the time of circulation.

## **Compliance and Monitoring:**

Fence integrity will be monitored every spring to repair fence damage. Annual monitoring also will occur to document riparian recovery.

## **Terms / Conditions / Stipulations:**

This decision does not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation and will aid in the rehabilitation of the riparian area of Oakbrook. Fence construction across Oakbrook will occur between July 16 and December 31 when listed salmonid species are not present. Use of heavy equipment in the stream channel will not be allowed.

/s/ JC Hanf Acting for  
Robert Towne  
Field Manager, Deschutes Resource Area

12/17/02  
Date